

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02874 131630Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----130770 131640Z /43

O 131628Z JUL 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2518
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02874

EXDIS

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, XF, LE

SUBJECT: WESTERN FIVE CONSULTATIONS ON THE SITUATION IN
LEBANON

1. UPON THE INITIATIVE OF SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
BARTON (CANADA), WESTERN FIVE MET AT THE CANADIAN MISSION
JULY 12 TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN LEBANON AND AGAIN
ASSESS THE QUESTION OF CONVENING A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING.
IN OPENING THE DISCUSSION, BARTON SAID IT WAS HIS EXPECTA-
TION THAT THE WESTERN FIVE WERE LIKELY TO BE FACED IN THE
NEAR FUTURE WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING ASKED TO CONVENE
THE COUNCIL IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF THE
SITUATION IN BEIRUT. IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS POSSIBILITY,
HE WANTED AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

2. LEONARD SAID THAT US WAS STILL KEEPING OPEN THE POSSI-
BILITY OF ASKING FOR A SC MEETING IF THE LEBANESE SITUATION
GOT WORSE. EVEN THOUGH THE SYRIANS AT PRESENT WERE OPPOSED
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TO CONVENING THE COUNCIL, HE SAID, THIS COULD CHANGE AS THE
SITUATION EVOLVED. THE KUWAITIS AND SAUDIS COULD INFLUENCE
THE SYRIANS ON THIS MATTER. UK AND FRENCH REPS EXPRESSED
RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE VALUE OF TRYING TO CONVENE THE
SECURITY COUNCIL UNLESS THE ARABS WERE READY TO SUPPORT
SUCH A MOVE. FOR THE PRESENT, LEONARD CONTINUED, THE MOST
USEFUL ACTION OF THE WESTERN FIVE WOULD BE TO CONTINUE TO

URGE THE SYRIANS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND TO TRY TO CONVINCE THEM THAT INTERNATIONAL OPINION WOULD NOT SUPPORT THEM IF FIGHTING INTENSIFIED IN BEIRUT.

3. IN ABSENCE OF ANY SUGGESTIONS FROM OTHER FOUR DELEGATIONS, LEONARD NOTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HAVE AN ARAB MINI-SUMMIT TO RENEW THE ADF MANDATE AND TO REACTIVATE THE CAIRO AND RIYADH AGREEMENTS WHICH INTER ALIA PROVIDE FOR DISARMING THE VARIOUS MILITIAS, BUT THAT SYRIANS PRESENTLY ARE NOT INTERESTED. ANOTHER (NOT VERY LIKELY) POSSIBILITY, HE SAID, MIGHT BE TO EXPLORE WHETHER SYRIANS WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO HAVING A SMALL NUMBER OF UN TROOPS JOIN OR REPLACE THEM AT KEY CHECK POINTS IN BEIRUT. ANY SUCH NEW ROLE FOR THE UN CLEARLY WOULD REQUIRE A NEW MANDATE FROM THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND COULD ONLY HAPPEN IF THE SYRIANS WANTED IT. LEONARD MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS ONLY A PRELIMINARY IDEA WHICH WE HAD NOT DISCUSSED WITH THE SYRIANS. AMB RICHARD EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN THE CONCEPT.

4. THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT AMONG WESTERN FIVE FOR ENCOURAGING WALDHEIM TO VISIT BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT THESE MAY BE LITTLE MORE THAN COSMETIC VISITS. LEONARD SAID HE PROBABLY WOULD BE EXPLORING THIS WITH WALDHEIM LATER IN THE DAY. (SEPTEL ON CONVERSATION WITH WALDHEIM. LEONARD
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSULTATIONS (UN), POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780287-0561
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780761/aaaabzvw.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c11f9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2013315
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WESTERN FIVE CONSULTATIONS ON THE SITUATION IN LEBANON
TAGS: PORG, MARR, XF, LE, US, UK, FR, GE, CA, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c11f9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014